

Charman Powell,
Sinclair Broadcasting's despicable decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This is not the first time the suits at Sinclair have forced their agenda on us: They refused to show a "Nightline" recently that read the name of every soldier killed in the war on terror because they felt ABC News was making an anti-war and therefore anti-Bush statement.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. They should plaster a "Bush/Cheney 2004" logo on each station id to really show their bias. The Smith family, who own Sinclair, are rabid Bush supporters and have donated huge sums of money in years past (before the limit of \$2000 was imposed).

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.